

this weekend. This cemetery will serve as a final resting place for our veterans and their family members for many years to come.

The Bakersfield National Cemetery covers more than five hundred acres and includes full-casket gravesites, pre-placed crypts, in-ground cremation sites and columbarium niches. Additionally, the grounds will include a public information center, a maintenance complex, a flag assembly area, a memorial walkway, a committal service shelter, as well as interment areas, plus irrigation and support facilities that will keep the grounds pristine as the final resting place of many of our heroes from the Central Valley of California who have served and sacrificed for our country.

It is of the utmost importance that the brave men and women who keep us safe be honored. This cemetery provides solace to the families of service personnel; for others, it will serve as a reminder of the sacrifice that patriots have made, and will continue to make, on behalf of our nation.

The Bakersfield National Cemetery is a monument not only to the sacrifice of our local veterans, but also to Kern County's unending commitment to those who serve, and the cause of freedom for all. The Bakersfield National Cemetery is a small token of appreciation for our men and women in uniform who protect the freedoms that we enjoy today, and I am honored today to recognize its first Memorial Day ceremony.

HONORING THE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF RAYMUNDO M. BARRERA AND PLACIDA P. BARRERA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. Raymundo M. Barrera and Mrs. Placida P. Barrera. I congratulate the couple on spending over half a century married and going strong together.

The couple is native to South Texas and has contributed to the community through their careers and service. Raymundo was born in 1926 in Mission, Texas to Dr. Cayetano Barrera and Maria L. Martinez. That same year, Placida Pena was born to Reynaldo Pena and Josefa Ramirez in Guerra, Texas.

Their life together began the day they met in Mission, Texas in 1940 at their young age of 14 years old. As fate would have it, Placida lived with her aunt and was next door neighbors to Raymundo's family. At the start of the World War II, a year later, Placida went back to live with her parents in Jim Hogg County in a community name Guerra or El Colorado Ranch. She graduated from the Rio Grande City High School in 1945. Eight years later, she went back to Mission and reunited with Raymundo. Raymundo had served his country by being recruited into the Army and served in Europe in 1945. After Raymundo and Placida saw each other, Raymundo went back to Delaware where he was stationed. The two corresponded through letters while they were apart.

By March 1950, in one of the many letters exchanged—Raymundo asked Placida to

marry him. By April, they were engaged and on June 4, they were married. Throughout the years, the two have been stationed at Laredo Air Force Base, South Korea, Yokota, Japan, and Kansas. By 1969, Sgt. Raymundo Barrera retired from the military and moved to Laredo, Texas. Following his retirement, Raymundo attended colleges in Laredo and received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Placida earned her bachelor's degree in education and taught in Roma, Texas. She taught for 21 years within the United Independent School District, in Laredo, Texas. In 2001, she retired.

Today, Raymundo and Placida are retired in Laredo, Texas. They have been blessed with six children, 20 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren.

I congratulate Raymundo's and Placida's 60th wedding anniversary. They have experienced a great deal together, served the community of South Texas and the nation, and continue going strong jointly.

HONORING WILLIAM (LARRY) LUCAS, VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (PhRMA)

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor Mr. Larry Lucas—who is retiring from his position as vice president, Government Affairs, of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association, PhRMA—for his dedication and illustrious career which, over many decades, has always championed the improved health and wellness of all people, but particularly of the underserved.

During his tenure at PhRMA, Larry honed his expertise and energy around coalition building and grassroots development, and developed strong and strategic partnerships with African-American and Latino state legislators throughout the country. But Larry also worked with a diversity of Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle on issues that were and remain critically important to expanding access not only to medicines, but also to quality health care information, services and treatments. He launched numerous efforts to work with a broad coalition of key stakeholders—from patients, to healthcare providers and administrators, to for-profit and not-for-profit health organizations—to raise greater awareness about the factors that exacerbate the racial and ethnic differences in access to quality health care, as well as in health preferences and health outcomes. Ever the communicator—Larry did a stint in radio as a young man—he also wrote a nationally syndicated monthly column about new developments in the pharmaceutical industry.

Larry's incredible accomplishments, however, began long before he joined PhRMA. Not only did he receive a bachelor of science degree in education from Jackson State University in Mississippi and honorably serve the Nation in the United States Air Force, but he conceptualized and launched a landmark outreach campaign at the Bureau of Census for

the 1980 census program that involved over 86,000 government jurisdictions. One testament to the success of this effort—which is but one of many during his 16 years with the Bureau—is that the program was replicated in the 1990 and 2000 censuses.

Recently appointed to the Africa Diaspora North Initiative Strategic Planning Committee Board, as well as to the board of trustees for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP—where he is involved in their contribution fund and health committee—Larry holds numerous leadership positions on the boards of directors, as well as advisory boards and councils of some of the Nations' most influential and prominent organizations. Among them are the following: the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc., the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Hispanic Medical Foundation and The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Larry Lucas also serves on the boards of directors for the Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute, the Providence Health Foundation Providence Hospital, Yale University's School of Nursing External Advisory Board, and is a founding member of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators' Business Board of Advisors.

Through his commitment to excellence and unwillingness to accept mediocrity, Larry is highly regarded as a respectful, trustworthy, prepared and savvy federal and state legislative affairs expert. Through his perseverance and unrelenting focus on and dedication to reducing racial and ethnic, gender and geographic health disparities, Larry is widely known as one of the Nation's most passionate health equity champions. And, through his continued support of the efforts of not only the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, but of the Congressional TriCaucus, Larry is not only a brilliant mind, but a great mentor and friend who will be missed, but who also will serve as an inspiration to so many others for many decades to come.

On behalf of all those who have been touched and informed by Larry Lucas's efforts, and whose health, health care, wellness and thus life opportunities have been improved by his myriad professional and personal successes, I thank, honor and congratulate Mr. Lucas today, and wish him health and happiness during a long retirement with his loving wife Camille, family and friends.

RECOGNIZING MR. BOBBY STOUT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has honorably served his country in the United States Navy and his community of the City of Wichita and Sedgewick County, Kansas.

After 53 years of involvement in the local criminal justice system, Mr. Bobby Stout will be retiring from his position as the Wichita Crime Commission's Executive Director, effective June 30th, 2010.

This remarkable achievement is the culmination of an extraordinary career. After completing his military obligation in the United